



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

March 4, 2004

News Release

ICE AGENTS ARREST 9 CRIMINAL ALIENS IN BENEFITS INVESTIGATION

NORFOLK, VA— U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents and local law enforcement officers arrested on Thursday nine criminal aliens in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia.

Six of the arrested aliens had been previously convicted on aggravated felony charges, including child molestation, possession of narcotics, grand larceny, sexual assault and other crimes. The remaining three individuals had absconded after an Immigration judge had lodged an order of removal against them.

ICE agents identified the subjects during an investigation that revealed they had attempted to obtain various immigration benefits through the offices of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS). The benefits include work authorization, adjustment of status to a lawful permanent resident, and naturalization.

“Restoring the integrity of our immigration system is a priority for ICE,” said Mike Netherland, ICE Resident Agent in Charge in Norfolk. “A key step in the restoration process is to aggressively locate, arrest and remove criminal and non-criminal illegal aliens from the United States. By attempting to obtain legal immigration benefits, these criminals were also degrading the very system that thousands of law abiding individuals use to start a new life in the United States.”

Those arrested include:

Tham Tan Vo, a citizen of Vietnam who currently resides in Newport News, Va., was previously convicted of crimes involving carnal knowledge of a child between 13 and 15 years of age.

Selahaddin Kaplan, a citizen of Turkey who currently resides in Williamsburg, Va., was previously convicted of crimes involving assault and battery.

Victor Rojas-Duran, a citizen of the Dominican Republic who currently resides in Virginia Beach, Va., was previously convicted of crimes involving the possession with intent to distribute marijuana.

Mohammed Zakari, a citizen of Morocco who currently resides in Virginia Beach, Va., was previously convicted of crimes involving Grand Larceny.

Sevanti Modi, a citizen of India who currently resides in Virginia Beach, Va., was previously convicted of crimes involving sexual battery.

Schiller Menard, a citizen of Haiti who currently resides in Virginia Beach, Va., was previously convicted of crimes involving the possession and sale of marijuana and the possession of a firearm.

Xue Qi Lin, Sheng Chao Weng, and Xia Ming Wen, all citizens of China and currently residing in Virginia Beach, Va., were previously ordered removed from the United States by an Immigration judge.

All subjects have been placed in removal proceedings and will appear before a federal immigration judge in the near future.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.